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SENSITIVE

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SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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South Vietnamese officials in Military Region 2 believe that the Communists are about to attack a Ranger battalion position in western Pleiku Province. The North Vietnamese 64th Regiment with supporting air defense units was detected on April 7 moving to positions near Thanh An District Headquarters. The Military Region 2 officials doubt that the Communist force is large enough to overrun Thanh An and expect attacks to be limited to the outpost. The government has scheduled air strikes and is repositioning heavy artillery guns to support the Rangers.

Fighting continued at generally low levels throughout the country yesterday with most of the action directed against government positions northwest of Saigon.

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